Complaints of structural and finishing defects in Delhi Development Authority's SFS Flats in Gulabi Bagh

1259. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of complaints had been made to his Ministry and Delhi Development Authority regarding serious structural and finishing defects in the Delhi Development Authority's Flats in Self Financing Scheme in Gulabi Bagh, Delhi during the years 1987 and 1988; and

(b) if so, what action had been taken by the Delhi Development Authority to set matters right and against the contractors for such poor workmanship?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): Yes, Sir.

(b) All the defects were rectified and strengthening measures adopted for structural soundness of the buildings. The expenditure incurred has been debited to the original contractors.

Double membership of Health Schemes of retired Government Employees

1260. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory or compulsory for a retired Central Government officer who takes up a part-time assignment on a remuneration upto Rs. 1000/- p.m. in a Public Ltd. Co. in New Delhi to subscribe towards the Employees State Insurance Corporation Fund, when he is already subscribing on the basis of his last pay drawn to the Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to remedy this anamolous situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) According to section 2(9) of the Employees' State Insurance Act, the Act is applicable to every person employed for wages in or in connection with the work of a factory or establishment to which the Act applies and all such persons are required to pay contribution from the wages, drawn by them. It is, therefore, mandatory for the retired Central Government servant, who takes up a part-time assignment on a remuneration upto Rs. 1600/- per month to subscribe to the ESI Scheme.

(c) The retired Central Government servants are entitled to only medical and hospitalisation facilities under the CGHS. The ESI Scheme on the other hand provides besides medical care, cash benefits in the contigencies of sickness, maternity and employment injury. There is, therefore, no anomaly in the coverage of retired Government servants under the ESI Scheme, which need to be remedied.

Coca Cola versus Pepsi Cola

1261. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coca Cola Company is likely to introduce its products in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pepsi Cola Company is pressurising against its introduction in the coun try;

(c) if so, what is the Government's policy regarding the introduction of these multinational products in the country; and

(d) what effect they are likely to have on indigenous products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings, Inc. USA has submitted an application for the manufacture of Proprietory compound preparations and extracts to be used in the manufacture of concentrates for non-alcoholic beverages in the NOIDA Export Processing Zone. The application is under consideration of the Government. M/s. Pepsico Inc., USA had sent a communication by telex to the Government of India expressing their concern in this regard.

Hike in the prices of Nickel, Tin and Zinc

1262. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA :Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC, which is a canalising agency, has hiked the prices of Nickel, Tin and Zinc;

(b) if so, what is its impact on industries which use these basic metals;

(c) what are the reasons for the increase: and

(d) whether this growth will adversely affect the growth of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The domestic prices of nickel, tin and zinc are fixed every month by a Pricing Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Controller of Imports & Exports after taking into account the landed cost of imports by Mineral & Metals Trading Corporation Limited (MMTC), the canalising agency, with the prevailing import duties added. Thus, any increase in the international prices of these metals has a direct bearing on the domestic prices.

The prices of these non-ferrous metals since January, 1989 are indicated below:

Rs. per tonne

	Nickel	Tin	Zinc
January, '89 . . .	3,54,000	2,52,000	39,800
February, '89 . . .	3,75,000	2,52,000	42,500
March, '89 . . .	4,08,000	2,65,000	48,200
April, '89	4,23,000	2,96,000	50,500
May, '89	4,23,000	3,88,000	50,500

The production as well as growth of the down stream industries have not shown any decline due to increase in the prices of these non-ferrous metals. However, the price of the these non-ferrows metals have a bearing on the cost of production of manufactured goods to the extent of their use.